



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute

OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Video Conference Call

April 15, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jerry Anderson, Hancock Forest Management
Audrey Barnes, Nickel Mountain, LLC
Tom DeLuca, Oregon State University College of Forestry
Kris Elliott, Oregon State University
Tyler Freres, Freres Lumber Co., Inc.
David Hampton, Hampton Lumber
Matt Hegerberg, Heron Timber
Jon Irvine, IAM-AW District W24
Steve McNulty, Weyerhaeuser Company
Quincy Powers, Powers Ranch Co.
Casey Roscoe, Seneca Sawmill Co.
Eric Schooler, Collins

Staff:

Inka Bajandas
Jordan Benner
Mike Cloughesy
Norie Dimeo-Ediger
Rikki Heath
Erin Isselmann
Kathy Storm
Julie Woodward

Guests:

Kris Babbs, Keep Oregon Green
Amy Jahnke, Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Lena Tucker, Oregon Department of Forestry

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tyler Freres at 9:01 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Quincy Powers moved to approve the January 21, 2021, February 23, 2021, and March 18, 2021 board meeting minutes, and the February 23, 2021 executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by David Hampton. Voting for the motion: Jerry Anderson, Tyler Freres, David Hampton, Jon Irvine, Steve McNulty, Quincy Powers, Casey Roscoe and Eric Schooler. Voting against the motion: none. Motion passed.

Senior Manager, Business Operations Kathy Storm referenced the July 2020-February 2021 financial reports sent to the board in late March. Board members had no questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Kris Babbs, president of Keep Oregon Green, presented a sponsorship proposal that would increase the volume of impressions and extend the geographic reach of KOG's public service announcements regarding wildfire safety and prevention. Discussion followed.

Motion: Eric Schooler moved to approve \$200,000 from Fiscal Year 2020-21 savings to develop a grant with Keep Oregon Green for purchase of additional wildfire safety and prevention public service announcements. The motion was seconded by Casey Roscoe. Voting for the motion: Jerry Anderson, Audrey Barnes, Tyler Freres, David Hampton, Jon Irvine, Steve McNulty, Quincy Powers, Casey Roscoe and Eric Schooler. Note: Matt Hegerberg lost cellular coverage on the call and texted his "yea" vote. Voting against the motion: none. Motion passed.

Amy Jahnke, the new executive director of Oregon Small Woodlands Association, introduced herself and provided an overview of her vision for OSWA.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Erin Isselmann reviewed Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget projections and the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget. Isselmann reviewed updated harvest levels and how they impact the budget.

Motion: Jerry Anderson moved to approve OFRI's Fiscal Year 2020-21 proposed budget, which totals \$6,751,299 in revenue that includes a projected carryover from Fiscal Year 2020-21 of \$2,597,633, and \$4,756,307 in expenditures based on a harvest tax projection of \$4,063,360 from timber harvest projections of 3.63 billion board feet, and to authorize the Executive Director to implement budgeted programs, including any necessary contract and agreements, with the approval of the Chair. The motion was seconded by David Hampton. Voting for the motion: Jerry Anderson, Audrey Barnes, Tyler Freres, David Hampton, Matt Hegerberg, Jon Irvine, Steve McNulty, Quincy Powers, Casey Roscoe and Eric Schooler. Voting against the motion: none. Motion passed.

Chair Freres reviewed the potential adjustment to the OFRI tax ceiling allowed by OFRI's implementing legislation. The 2020 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, West Region, increased by 1.76 percent, allowing for an increase in the forest products harvest tax ceiling from \$1.57 per thousand board feet to \$1.60 per thousand board feet.

Motion: Jerry Anderson moved to increase OFRI's harvest tax ceiling of \$1.57 per thousand board feet by 1.76 percent (2020 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, West Region), to an adjusted rate of \$1.60 per thousand board feet. The motion was seconded by Matt Hegerberg. Voting for the motion: Jerry Anderson, Audrey Barnes, Tyler Freres, David Hampton, Matt Hegerberg, Jon Irvine, Steve McNulty, Quincy Powers, Casey Roscoe and Eric Schooler. Voting against the motion: none. Motion passed.

The forest products harvest tax rate of \$1.12 per thousand board feet will remain the same in calendar year 2022.

Senior Manager, Forestry Education Julie Woodward reviewed plans for the fall 2021 board tour of the areas impacted by the 2020 Labor Day fires. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Freres announced nominations for Fiscal Year 2021-22 board officers. Jerry Anderson is interested in serving as Board Chair and Eric Schooler is interested in serving as Vice Chair. Freres asked for further nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received. Jerry Anderson received ten unanimous votes as Chair and Eric Schooler received ten unanimous votes as Vice Chair.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Mike Cloughesy

- **Trees to Tap Virtual Conference** was held online on March 11-12, 2021. It was sponsored by OFRI, Oregon State University College of Forestry & Institute for Natural Resources and the Oregon Association of Water Utilities. Attendance was over 240 people, including forest managers, water managers, water utility board members, regulators, conservationists and educators. OFRI featured panels on sediment and turbidity, forest chemicals, water quantity and two of three case studies. All sessions were recorded and are posted as YouTube videos on KnowYourForest.org. They are linked on the OSU College of Forestry Trees to Tap Conference page and on the OSU Institute for Natural Resources' *Trees to Tap* project page. As of April 12, there have been over 60 views of the most watched segment.
- **Economic Impact of 2020 Labor Day Fires on the Oregon Forest Sector**—A contract has been awarded to a team from Mason, Bruce & Girard and Forest Economic Associates to pursue this analysis for a total cost of \$80,000. The project is to be completed by June 30. A detailed update on this project is included in the board packets, and includes a list of project advisory committee members, the project description, an outline of the study's topics and a timeline.
- **Virtual Sustainable Forest Management Tour**—As part of OFRI's sponsorship of the Virtual International Mass Timber Conference, staff put together a virtual sustainable forestry tour on March 30. Staff presented a 30-minute video that included a virtual tour using a mix of old and new shots with a voice over of Cloughesy telling the story of sustainable forestry. The virtual tour was followed by a pre-recorded moderated question and answer session. The virtual tour was well received with positive feedback coming from the Forest Business Network, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, USDA Forest Service, Dovetail Partners and Oregon Department of Forestry. The points made in the video were consistent with other information presented on sustainability and with the architect community's need to know. The first 15-minute virtual tour is being posted as a stand-alone video on the OFRI webpage. Cloughesy

will be including it in a Tree School online webinar on forest sustainability and certification on June 15.

- **OSWA Timber Tax Webinar**—OFRI is supporting a seven-part OSWA Timber Tax webinar series on OFRI's Zoom Webinar Account. The series features Clint Bentz and Dr. Tammy Cushing. It has been well received with a total of over 200 landowners and forestry consultants registered for the series and over 120 folks attending each of the four sessions so far. Remaining episodes are April 27, May 11 and May 25. All sessions are free and can be registered for at the OSWA website. Past episodes' recordings, presentations and handouts are also available on the OSWA website.
- **Desk Guide**—Developing a Director of Forestry Desk Guide. This desk guide will cover the major duties of the position and will serve as a documentation of how the duties are to be carried out and a best practices document for the position. The desk guide will include a set of supporting documents such as project descriptions, project timelines, conference and tour agendas, and OFRI Board Proposals for each major duty.

Major duties/products described include developing and presenting science reports, forest sector economic reports, special reports, *Oregon Forest Facts* publications, landowner education publications, conferences, field tours, landowner education workshops and webinars.

Julie Woodward

- **Managing Logging Slash Piles in Northwest Oregon**—A collaborative effort with ODF, OSU and the NW Forest Protection Association. The pamphlet is a how-to guide with best management practices to reduce fire hazards on the landscape and assist landowners with safely clearing and burning slash piles. It is a short eight-page overview with helpful pictures and a checklist. A webinar on the topics is planned for May 4, as part of the Tree School Online series. An accompanying video is in production. The pamphlet is available for free by order or download. <https://oregonforests.org/publications>
- **Tree School Online**—Continues twice a month into June 2021. There are a variety of topics planned and board members are encouraged to visit the knowyourforest.org website to see the full listing. There have been over 11,500 viewers of live or recorded sessions to date.
- **Starker Lecture Series 2021**—This year's Starker Lecture Series was on "Resilience in the face of disturbance: Learning from disaster." It focused on how communities, industries and organizations across the forest landscape have responded to recent and previous disasters, shown resilience in the face of adversity, and are ready to play critical roles in creating a better future. The four-part panel series focused on forest economics, recreation, education, and research. The series is complete, but the videos are available for free to watch. The series reached over 1700 participants between those on Zoom, Facebook live and watching recordings to date. <https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/starker-lectures>
- **Wildlife in Managed Forest Program**—Developed a wildlife-friendly seed mix fact sheet, primarily aimed at landowners impacted by fires. Working on an in-depth publication, *Forest Amphibians*. The program has recently provided presentations for the Women Owning Woodland program and Tree School Online. We are on the agenda for the AOL member meeting in May.
- **Rediscovery Forest Management**—Completed initial clean-up of hazard and large trees, including chipping the hardwood. Got all trails cleaned off and open for public use. The

Oregon Garden reopened to the public in mid-March. The oak grove remains closed and it will take some time for the Oregon Garden Foundation to clean up.

- **OSWA Presentations**—Cloughesy and Woodward have been assisting OSWA chapters with hosting their monthly and annual meetings. Woodward recently provided a presentation on forest management and certification to OSWA members.

Jordan Benner

- **Websites**
 - All OFRI websites have been transferred to a new hosting environment. OFRI's contractor, Parallel Public Works, has been examining the seven OFRI sites.
 - The sites are currently on different platforms (various versions of Drupal and Wordpress).
 - Security updates have been made on all of the sites to bring them up-to-date. In the coming weeks, two of OFRI's Drupal sites will be updated to the most current version of Drupal.
- **Sustainable Forestry video**
 - OFRI was asked by the Mass Timber Conference to host a virtual forest tour for the participants. Staff put together a new video called "Sustainable Wood Products from Sustainable Forests."
 - The video is 15 minutes long and covers everything from ownership, to recreation, to certification. A 30-minute version that included a 15-minute Q&A with Marcus Kauffman of ODF was shown at the conference. The 15-minute video is available on the OFRI YouTube channel.
- **Tree School videos**
 - The series continues, and Benner is in charge of converting, editing and posting all of the videos for the Partnership for Forestry Education. That work is ongoing, as it has been for the past year.
- **Pile burning video**
 - Benner has been helping Woodward to create a video guide to piling and burning slash. This is a companion video to our pamphlet that OFRI put out recently and should be completed in the coming month.

Inka Bajandas

- **Fire special report**—Bajandas is wrapping up a draft of OFRI's new fire special report, a joint project with Keep Oregon Green, OSU Extension and ODF, and it will soon go through an internal review process. The plan is to publish the report in early summer.
- **2020 Labor Day fires economic impact report marketing and summary**—Sent out a [news release](#) in late March to OFRI partners about our contract with Mason, Bruce & Girard and Forest Economic Advisors to produce a report examining the economic impacts of the Labor Day wildfires on Oregon's forest sector. The aim was to help inform OFRI ratepayers and other interested stakeholders about the upcoming report. Once the report is completed in June, Bajandas will work with Cloughesy (as a temporary employee) on putting together a report summarizing its findings and will market both publications through the summer and into early fall.
- **OFRI partner guest blogs**—Currently working on putting together a series of guest blogs featuring OFRI's forest education partners that will be posted on OregonForests.org. The first one, by Bonny Glendenning of Port Blakely about their Environmental Education Program, is already up on the OFRI blog. Check it out [here](#).

Norie Dimeo-Ediger and Rikki Heath

- **Oregon Envirothon**—The event is going virtual again this year and will be held the first week of May with a virtual awards ceremony on May 14. Dimeo-Ediger and Heath are incorporating

the lessons learned last year to fine-tune the testing process. Currently there are seven teams registered.

- **Salem-Keizer Outdoor School Coalition**—One school has requested a spring outdoor school program. Heath is working with several of our partners to deliver an abbreviated version of the program at Englewood Park in Salem.
- **Oregon Garden Natural Resources Education Program**—Heath is working on a virtual program in order to be ready to meet the demand this school year or next. At the same time, there are schools that are interested in having the program in-person this spring. Staff's goal is for schools to have options for participating in the program. Staff is working on a safety protocol for COVID for serving students in person.
- **Social media**—Heath continues to create social posts every week for Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- **Fire website**—Working with OFRI's web contractor on the design of the interactive fire program for middle school students.
- **Early reader publication**—This publication for beginning readers in grades K-2 is moving forward and should be ready to print this fiscal year.
- **Oregon Coast Aquarium signage**—The agreement with the Oregon Coast Aquarium has been signed and we are processing payment for the signage project. Staff will keep the board updated as the signage is developed and the new exhibits are opened at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.
- **SFI Conference**—Dimeo-Ediger is presenting OFRI's forest literacy plan at the SFI virtual conference in May.
- **Teacher E-News**—An e-newsletter will go out to teachers before the end of the school year.

Erin Isselmann

- OFRI received DAS's Gold Star Award for achieving statewide accounting goals and excellence in financial reporting for Fiscal Year 2019-20.
- Jordan Benner completed a Portland State University strategic communication certification.
- No new information from the Secretary of State Audit Division's staff on when the draft audit will be sent.

Tyler Freres

- Recognized that Director of Forestry Mike Cloughesy is retiring June 30. Freres thanked Cloughesy for his service to OFRI and forestry and wished him well in retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Storm
Recorder